

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00912 131553Z

ACTION H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8552

CONFIDENTIAL REYKJAVIK 0912

TO H, AF&L ONLY FROM DAVID CHRISTENSEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AF

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: STATE 175648

1. REGRET REF MESSAGE WAS NOT TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY UNTIL MORNING OF JULY 13 SO THAT I WAS UNABLE TO MEET JULY 12 TARGET.

2. TO BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION, MEETING IN QUESTION INVOLVED CALL ON CONGRESSMEN DENT AND ICHORD AND A THIRD CONGRESSMAN WHOSE NAME I DO NOT REMEMBER. I BELIEVE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED PAUL O'NEILL, AF/S OFFICE DIRECTOR, RICHARD DOLS, WHO WAS SOUTH AFRICAN DESK OFFICER, AND MYSELF IN MY CAPACITY AS ECONOMIC OFFICER FOR AF/S.

3. AS I REMEMBER IT, DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND OUR EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE THE THREE CONGRESSMEN FROM TRAVELING TO RHODESIA AT THAT TIME. MR. DOLS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS USG POLICY TO DISCOURAGE SUCH TRAVEL AND ADDED THAT RHODESIANS WOULD BE VERY LIKELY TO USE ANY VISIT BY US CONGRESSMEN FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AS IMPLIED RECOGNITION OF RHODESIAN STATUS AS INDEPENDENT NATION.

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I BELIEVE MR. DOLS ALSO NOTED THAT THE USG HAD NEITHER DIPLOMATIC NOR CONSULAR FACILITIES IN RHODESIA AND THEREFORE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE ANY CONSULR SERVICES TO AMERICANS WHILE TRAVELING IN RHODESIA. DURING COURSE OF MEETING, CONGRESSMAN DENT WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF USG POLICY VIS-A-VIS RHODESIA AND CONTINUED TO STRESS HIS VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF RHODESIAN CHROME TO

US STEEL INDUSTRY. AT SEVERAL POINTS DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS DISCUSSED DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT AND CONGRESSMAN DENT VOICED HIS OPPOSITION TO SUCH EFFORTS.

4. AT ONE POINT DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, CONGRESSMAN DENT ACCUSED STATE DEPARTMENT OF LEAKING TO PRESS FACT THAT HE AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES WERE GOING ON TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. AS I RECALL, MR. DOLS REPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD NOT REPEAT NOT GIVEN OUT ANY SUCH INFORMATION AND ADDED THAT TRIP HAD BEEN MENTIONED PUBLICLY BY ANOTHER CONGRESSMAN AT AN EARLIER DATE AND THAT THAT WAS PROBABLY SOURCE OF PRESS INFORMATION. I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF MEETING OTHER THAN A GENERAL REVIEW OF ITINERARY WHICH THREE CONGRESSMEN WOULD FOLLOW. MY OWN COMMENTS DURING COURSE OF THE MEETING WERE ON MATTERS RELATED TO RHODESIAN CHROME EXPORTS TO THE US.

5. I DO NOT REMEMBER WHETHER A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WAS PREPARED ON THE MEETING. IF ONE HAD BEEN, MR. DOLS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN THE DRAFTER.

6. COMMENT. I WAS CONTACTED ABOUT A MONTH AGO BY A CBS NEWSMAN WHO MENTIONED THAT THE 1975 TRIP BY CONGRESSMAN DENT AND HIS COLLEAGUES WAS MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY CONCERNING SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES OF THE THREE CONGRESSMEN. HE SAID MY NAME HAD BEEN FURNISHED TO HIM BY DICK DOLS WHO HAD MENTIONED THAT I HAD BEEN AT THE MEETING WHICH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HELD WITH DENT PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHEN THE NEWSMAN ASKED ME IF I REMEMBERED THE DETAILS OF THE MEETING, I CONFINED MY REMARKS TO COMMENT THAT TO THE BEST OF MY RATHER VAGUE RECOLLECTIONS, MEETING HAD CENTERED AROUND ONGOING DEPARTMENT OF STATE EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE TRAVEL TO RHODESIA, CONSISTENT WITH USG POLICY AT THE TIME.

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